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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

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TO : The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM : INR - Allan Evans *Evans*

INTELLIGENCE NOTE: "CHE" GUEVARA INTERVIEW SHOWS BITTERNESS

Cuba left undefended. In his only public statement since the outset of the missile crisis, "Che" Guevara (whose views usually parallel Fidel's) complained yesterday to a correspondent of the London Daily Worker that the withdrawal of the Soviet missiles had not removed the threat of US aggression. While he granted the immediate danger of war was avoided, he denied that a great victory had been achieved. Instead he feared that agony may only have been prolonged. Nevertheless, he said, Cuba will fight to the death with what weapons it has left.

Early support for missiles in Cuba. Guevara was probably an early advocate of bringing Soviet missiles into Cuba. It was during his visit to Moscow, while the build-up was in progress, that Soviet military aid to Cuba was first formally acknowledged. Soon afterward, Guevara called the Soviet aid a matter of historic importance before which the US would have no choice but to capitulate. The significance of his words only became clear as the extent of the build-up became known. "Che's" present bitterness is probably a reaction to his former enthusiasm.

Focus shifted to Latin America. Guevara notes the continued necessity of relying on the USSR, but he cites as more important the pro-Castro, anti-US activities in Latin America as the key to gaining independence of US "imperialism". In precisely the way that Mao Tse-tung might like, he called for armed struggle in the countryside to expand the revolutionary

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base. While emphasizing the Cuban example, and denying direct Cuban involvement in other Latin revolutionary movements, "Che" probably had in mind a Fidel-led native Marxist movement in this hemisphere, one which Cuban activists could hardly keep their fingers out of.

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